

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action of November 17, 2004, are earnestly solicited.

By this amendment, Claim 1 has been canceled and Claims 2—9 have been amended, leaving Claims 2—9 pending in the application.

Claims 1—3 and 6—7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,997,622 to Regazzoni et al. (test no. 7). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 2 calls for between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of tin, thereby distinguishing Claim 2 and its dependent Claims 6—7 over Regazzoni et al. Claim 3 calls for about 0.5% and about 2.0% by weight of rare earth metals, thereby distinguishing Claim 3 over Regazzoni et al.

Claims 4—5 and 8—9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Regazzoni et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4—5 and 8—9 depend directly from Claim 2 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 2.

Claims 2—9, as amended herein are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2005

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